(c) Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED) Phase 1 for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) was sanctioned in 1993 only for Technology Development. Later in November, 2001, FSED Phase 2 was sanctioned for manufacturing of additional prototypes and eight Limited Series Production Aircrafts. Decision was taken to change to Open System Architecture (OSA) for Avionics and Change over to R73 E missile (from R60) to make the aircraft more advanced and contemporary. There are no other changes in the design. The project is progressing well and has completed more than 933 test flights successfully with seven aircrafts under flight test phase. Indian Air Force (IAF) has already placed a commercial order on HAL for procuring 20 LCA aircrafts.

(d) and (e) There is no such information available with the Government.

Visit of Defence Minister to USA

956. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he paid a visit to United States of America recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion took place and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir. A delegation led by Raksha Mantri visited United State of America during 07-10 September 2008 in response to an invitation extended by Dr. Robert Gates, US Secretary of Defence during his visit to India in February 2008.

(b) During the meeting between Raksha Mantri and Secretary Gates, ongoing defence cooperation matters were discussed.

Diversion of suppliers meant for Indian armed forces

957. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:
DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in November, 2006 a racket of diversion/sale of Army Petrol-Diesel to private petrol pumps has been detected in Bikaner under Southern-Western command;

(b) whether racket is of 30 crore proportion;

(c) whether during the last ten years many rackets, pertaining to liquor, meat, pulses, clothes, ration, fake encounters in Army, Navy, Air Force have been unearthed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from concerned authorities in Army, Navy and Air Force.

Charges against Indian peace keepers in Congo

958. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the charges leveled against its peace corps under the UN employed in Congo ranging from smuggling, illegal detention of local citizens and lending support to rebel groups;

(b) whether the office of Internal Oversight Services of the UN had investigated such complaints against Indian Blue Helmets and if so, whether India has received a copy of the investigation report; and

(c) whether the investigating agency of the UN is also probing charges of child abuse against Indian peace keepers, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) United Nations has forwarded an investigation report on alleged sexual exploitation and abuse of minors by some Indian Peacekeepers earlier deployed in UN Mission in Congo (MONUC). All such instances are investigated in accordance with extant guidelines and appropriate disciplinary action is taken against guilty officials as per procedures.

Defence agreements with United States

959. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Defence agreements India has with United States;

(b) whether Government has made any study to assess the strategic benefits of India as well as U.S.A. out of those agreements; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) India has the following three Defence Agreements with U.S.A:-

(i) Agreement concerning Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information, signed in January, 2002 (**GSOMIA**)

(ii) Master Information Exchange Agreement (**MIEA**) to facilitate exchange of Research and Development, Information signed in February 2004.

(iii) Agreement on Research Development Testing and Evaluation Projects (**RDT and E**), signed in January, 2006.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Status of LLQRM system developed by DRDO

960. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Force is procuring 18 Spyder Low Level Quick Reaction Missiles\(LLQRM) from an Israeli Company;